

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Continuation of

Appln. No.: 09/359,037

REMARKS

Applicant amends the specification as amended in the parent (Application No. 09/359,037) of this continuation application. Applicant cancels claims 1-46 without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds new claims 47 and 48 which parallel claims 40 and 55, respectively, presented during prosecution of the parent application (Application No. 09/359,037).

Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claim 47, which recites a combination of method steps including, *inter alia*, supplying first radiant energy continuously by a constant source of first radiant energy, and its dependent claims 48 are in condition for immediate allowance at least based on the reasoning of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the Decision on Appeal, mailed November 7, 2003, in the parent (Application No. 09/359,037) of this continuation application.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 27, 2004